

The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

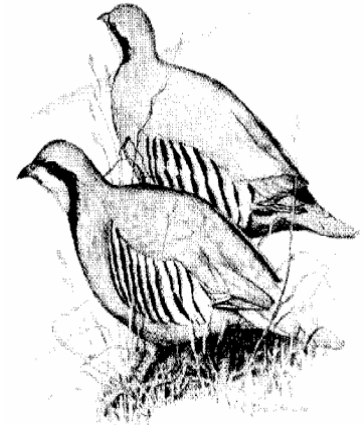
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2003

Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

Present:

Todd Ballantyne
Vic Fatovic
Randy Larsen
Dean Mitchell (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)
Steve Parker
Ernie Perkins
Tony Perkins (Secretary)
Dan Potts
Travis Proctor
Danny Raymer
Terry Sanslow
Ryan Sorensen
Brad Townsend
Brandon Wells



Old Business

Guzzler Study Update

Danny Raymer and Randy Larsen (from BYU) gave another presentation on the status of the study they are doing on guzzler usage. The study is progressing well. They now have access to a powered parachute and are doing surveys on the turkeys by air. This is allowing them to cover the entire turkey study area in 2 hours instead of the weeks it used to take.

Those turkeys that stayed near the guzzlers are surviving, though they are losing quite a bit of body mass. Those that moved away from the guzzlers have almost entirely died off or been killed. One interesting thing is that these turkeys do not seem to be all that accomplished at locating water. A group of turkeys walked past a water source on the way out into the desert, where they all died.

All of the poults (young turkeys) that hatched this year have died. This was due to many factors, including lack of water (for those that moved away from the guzzlers), poor feed and predation (mainly bobcats, coyotes and golden eagles).

Danny is very concerned about the nutritional quality of the study area, as this seems to have been a limiting factor on the turkeys in addition to having a water source. This will be looked at closely in the coming months.

For chukars, Randy is getting good information about what constitutes an optimal guzzler placement. Nearby shrub cover seems to be most important, with available escape cover (cliffs, rocks) being second. One other theory he's working on is that placement out of direct sunlight during the hottest part of the day may also be a significant factor in guzzler usage.

There are some interesting questions developing - along with some (preliminary and early) answers that will have to stand up to more rigorous analysis and time. The study still has lots of important questions to answer – several more years may be required to get really solid answers to all of the key questions.

“Utah Chukar Foundation” Organization

Travis Proctor updated us on his efforts to create a Utah Chukar Foundation. He talked with the very successful Nevada Chukar Foundation and got a number of very good ideas about how to proceed and what activities worked for them. He is currently working on the legal issues for setting up the organization.

The Committee members reiterated their support for this idea and a target date of Saturday the 28th of February was selected for a formational meeting. This meeting will be held at the DWR offices in Salt Lake City in room 2000. This meeting will include a presentation by Danny Raymer or Randy Larsen and another by Dean Mitchell.

Travis is planning to distribute flyers, promote the organization with Doug Miller, as well as other promotional activities.

New Business

Guzzler Study Call for Help

You can help with the ongoing guzzler study by saving parts of any chukars you harvest this year. Randy Larsen would like a wing, the crop and the gizzard placed in a baggie with the date you harvested the bird, the location and GPS coordinates (preferably in UTM). Please freeze the baggies and either arrange to get them to a future Upland Game Committee meeting or email Randy directly at rtl5@email.byu.edu.

Randy will be collecting samples through the remainder of this season and probably into next season, so any help you can give with this would be greatly appreciated.

Upland Game on the Internet

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State offices at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City.

Topics will be:

- Chukar Foundation Organization discussion (Travis Proctor)
- Sharptail Grouse Research Project Update (Ron Greer, Utah State University)
- Walk-in Access Update

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dean Mitchell deanmitchell@utah.gov

Tony Perkins

tony.perkins@comcast.net

Hal Smith hmsmith@parkcity.net

John Staley

jsmunster@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted ...

Tony Perkins